

Message Text

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12538 01 OF 02 261707Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 AF-10 NEA-11 ARA-14
AID-05 IO-14 OMB-01 /161 W
-----046080 261729Z /53

R 261652Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7501
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 01 OF 02 BRUSSELS 12538

USEEC

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR, MPOL, EEC, UK
SUBJ: SPEECH IN BRUSSELS BY UK'S MARGARET THATCHER

1. SUMMARY: IN FOREIGN POLICY SPEECH TO CATHOLIC
CONFERENCE IN BRUSSELS JUNE 23, U.K. CONSERVATIVE PARTY
LEADER THATCHER SAID THE WEST'S FOREIGN AND DEFENSE
POLICIES MUST BE "INTERLOCKED," AND REGRETTED THAT THERE
IS NOT A DIALOGUE BETWEEN NATO AND THE EC TO ENSURE THAT
RELEVANT LINKAGE IS APPROPRIATELY EXAMINED. THATCHER
FINDS USSR ("RUSSIA" IN HER TEXT) TO BE EXPANSIONIST,
CHINA NOT. SHE HAD MOSTLY GOOD WORDS FOR THE U.S., THE
"FOREMOST MEMBER" OF NATO, WHICH SHE HOPES IS EMERGING
FROM "AN UNDERSTANDABLE PERIOD OF DOUBT AND INTROSPECTION
....TO PLAY A POSITIVE AND IMAGINATIVE PART IN THE WORLD."
SHE CRITICIZED THE EC FOR SOMETIMES ELEVATING NARROW
ECONOMIC INTERESTS AT THE EXPENSE OF BROADER POLITICAL
CONSIDERATIONS. END SUMMARY.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12538 01 OF 02 261707Z

2. MRS. THATCHER BEGAN BY STATING SOME "PRINCIPLES" OF
FOREIGN POLICY: (A) AS LONG AS POTENTIAL ENEMIES EXIST,
PEACE CAN ONLY BE MAINTAINED THROUGH STRENGTH; (B) RISK
OF WAR RECEDES, AS DEMOCRACY ADVANCES; (C) WHILE FOREIGN
AND DEFENSE POLICY SHOULD EVOLVE TO KEEP PACE WITH
CHANGING CIRCUMSTANCES, NATIONS ARE BOUND BY PAST
COMMITMENTS; (D) WESTERN DEMOCRACIES SHOULD CONSCIOUSLY

TRY TO SHAPE THE FUTURE, RATHER THAN, BY DEFAULT, LEAVE THE INITIATIVE TO OTHERS; (E) THERE MUST BE MORE "INTELLIGENT INTERPRETATION" (AND CONSEQUENT POLICY DECISIONS) OF STIRRINGS IN AFRICA AND ELSEWHERE; AND (F) "NATIONAL CHARACTER OF A PEOPLE MAY GIVE A NATION HISTORIC GOALS WHICH PERSIST THROUGH CHANGING POLITICAL IDEOLOGIES." SHE SPELLS OUT LATTER POINT BY NOTING THAT RUSSIAN EXPANSIONISM WAS BORN IN THE 15TH CENTURY: "RUSSIA WAS EXPANSIONIST BEFORE, SHE IS EXPANSIONIST STILL."

3. AMONG "WORRYING SIGNS" ON GLOBAL SCENE, THATCHER CITED: THE SOVIET MILITARY THREAT; THE FACT THAT THE U.S. HAS BEEN THROUGH "A DIFFICULT....PERIOD OF DOUBT AND INTROSPECTION;" AND THE EC'S FAILURE TO DATE TO LIVE UP TO ITS PROMISE OF CATALYST FOR EUROPEAN UNITY.

4. HER PASSAGE ON THE EC CRITICIZED THE COMMUNITY FOR ALL TOO OFTEN BEING PENNY-WISE AND (POLITICALLY) POUND FOOLISH: "SOME OF THE HOPES WE HAVE ALWAYS HAD FOR EUROPE'S FUTURE ARE NOT BEING FULFILLED. THE IDEA OF EUROPEAN UNITY IS A GRAND CONCEPT. BUT THE CAUSE OF UNITY IS SURELY NOT ADVANCED BY HUNDREDS OF PETTY INTERNAL REGULATIONS, SUCH AS ON THE CONTENT OF ICE CREAM OR THE ACTIVITIES OF DOORSTEP SALESMEN. MOREOVER, WE NEED FAR BETTER MACHINERY FOR ENSURING THAT COMMUNITY DECISIONS

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 03 BRUSSE 12538 01 OF 02 261707Z

IN MATTERS OF TRADE AND FINANCE ARE IN HARMONY WITH OUR EUROPEAN POLITICAL INTERESTS, FOR EXAMPLE, AS THEY AFFECT TURKEY, YUGOSLAVIA, AUSTRALIA OR NEW ZEALAND. TO US IN EUROPE THESE COMMUNITY DECISIONS MAY SEEM DETAILED ECONOMIC MATTERS ABOUT LEVIES, TARIFFS AND QUOTAS, TO BE SETTLED AS BEST WE CAN TO SUIT THE ECONOMIC INTERESTS OF EUROPEAN PRODUCERS. BUT THESE DECISIONS AFFECT, OFTEN SUBSTANTIALLY, THE ABILITY OF SOME OF OUR FRIENDS OVERSEAS TO CONTINUE AS OUR FRIENDS. WE HAVE CREATED AN INSTRUMENT BUT NOT YET LEARNED HOW TO USE IT IN OUR OWN VITAL INTERESTS. THE COMMISSION AND THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS NEED TO BE MORE FARSIGHTED, MORE POLITICAL IN THEIR APPROACH. THE SOVIET UNION WOULD NOT DREAM OF TAKING SUCH DECISIONS ON TECHNICAL GROUNDS ONLY."

5. MRS. THATCHER CONSIDERED IT PROMISING THAT CHINA, "NOT AN EXPANSIONIST POWER", HAS AWAKENED TO THE SOVIET THREAT; SHE FOUND ENCOURAGING PRESIDENT CARTER'S ANNAPOLIS SPEECH AS EVIDENCE THAT THE U.S. "IS STILL DETERMINED TO PLAY A POSITIVE AND IMAGINATIVE PART IN THE WORLD;" AND SHE APPLAUDED RECENT POLITICAL EVOLUTION IN GREECE, PORTUGAL, AND SPAIN.

6. SHE LISTED AS KEY CURRENT ISSUES FOR WESTERN POLICY MAKERS: (A) DEFENSE POLICY: "DEFENSE MUST BE OUR FIRST CONSIDERATION." SHE THOUGHT THE WEST COULD AND SHOULD DEVOTE MORE RESOURCES TO DEFENSE; (B) EAST-WEST RELATIONS: SHE SUGGESTED THAT WESTERN NATIONS' POLICIES TOWARD THE EASTERN BLOC SHOULD BE CONSIDERED IN THEIR TOTALITY, AND INDICATED THAT SHE BELIEVES CERTAIN TYPES OF LINKAGE AMONG POLICIES TO BE APPROPRIATE; (C) HUMAN RIGHTS; AND (D) AFRICA AND THE THIRD WORLD.

7. IN WHAT IS LIKELY TO BE CONSIDERED BY MANY TO BE A CONTROVERSIAL PASSAGE (AND WILL, PERHAPS, BE WELCOMED BY OTHERS), THATCHER EMPHASIZED THAT IN HER VIEW ONE WAY TO UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 04 BRUSSE 12538 01 OF 02 261707Z

ENSURE THAT WESTERN DEFENSE, POLITICAL AND ECONOMIC MAINTAIN SOME SORT OF COMMUNICATION BETWEEN NATO AND THE EC:

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 01 BRUSSE 12538 02 OF 02 261709Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EA-12 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-02
INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 SP-02 SS-15
ICA-20 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 HA-05 AF-10 NEA-11 ARA-14
AID-05 IO-14 OMB-01 /161 W
-----046099 261729Z /53

R 261652Z JUN 78
FM AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7502
INFO ALL EC CAPITALS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USMISSION USNATO

UNCLAS SECTION 02 OF 02 BRUSSELS 12538

USEEC

QUOTE: THE NATO ALLIANCE WILL ALWAYS BE OUR BEST SOURCE

OF SECURITY. INDEED THE UNITED STATES, WHO WILL REMAIN THE FOREMOST MEMBER OF THAT ALLIANCE, HAS TAKEN THE LEAD IN INCREASING HER OWN CONTRIBUTION TO OUR JOINT DEFENCES. BUT SHOULD WE NOT ALSO RECALL THAT WE HAVE IN BRUSSELS THE HEADQUARTERS OF TWO GREAT ORGANISATIONS, THE EEC AND NATO, BOTH CONCERNED WITH THE PROTECTION AND PROSPERITY OF WESTERN EUROPE BUT WHICH HAVE LITTLE TO SAY TO ONE ANOTHER. CAN THAT BE RIGHT? I UNDERSTAND THE DIFFICULTIES - THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE TWO ORGANISATIONS IS NOT IDENTICAL, THOUGH OVERLAPPING. THE POSITION OF FRANCE MUST BE RESPECTED, THE TREATY OF ROME DOES NOT COVER FOREIGN POLICY OR DEFENCE.

THE FRIENDSHIP OF TURKEY, FOR EXAMPLE, IS CRUCIAL TO THE WEST. SHE HAS AN ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH THE EEC WHICH NEEDS REVISING. SHE MIGHT ONE DAY BECOME A FULL MEMBER. SHE IS A MEMBER OF NATO, AND IT IS VITAL THAT SHE REMAIN SO. SHOULD NOT THESE THINGS BE CONSIDERED TOGETHER?
UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 BRUSSE 12538 02 OF 02 261709Z

THE EXPANSION OF THE COMMUNITY, TO INCLUDE SPAIN AND PORTUGAL MIGHT CAUSE CERTAIN CONSTITUTIONAL PROBLEMS, BUT FROM A DEFENCE, AS WELL AS A POLITICAL, POINT OF VIEW THEIR ENTRY SEEMS A VERY DIFFERENT MATTER. IT IS ESSENTIAL. YET WHO IS THERE IN THE EEC DELIBERATIONS TO SPEAK UP FOR DEFENCE?

I FEEL NO ASSURANCE THAT ALL THESE CONNECTED MATTERS ARE BEING LOOKED AT TOGETHER. WHERE THERE IS SO MUCH AT STAKE WE CANNOT TOLERATE CONFUSION OF PURPOSE IN THE WEST. END QUOTE. HINTON

UNCLASSIFIED

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, SPEECHES, FOREIGN POLICY POSITION, PARTY LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 26 jun 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978BRUSSE12538
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780264-1283
Format: TEL
From: BRUSSELS USEEC
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780622/aaaaasog.tel
Line Count: 206
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 53281782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 29 mar 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: N/A
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2214783
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SPEECH IN BRUSSELS BY UK'S MARGARET THATCHER
TAGS: PEPR, MPOL, UK, EEC, (THATCHER, MARGARET)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/53281782-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014